**NEW STAFF**

**INTRODUCING XIFAN ZHANG**

As with many things these days, I am “made in China” and spent most of my life there. When I attended college, students were assigned a major as a future career believed to best serve the country’s needs under a rigorous economic regime. I was of course assigned to geology, or more precisely, geochemistry. I voluntarily chose to stay in geology during the course of economic change in China, because it opened many other opportunities. After completing my MSc at the University of Science and Technology in Beijing, I became a faculty member and taught several geology courses. While teaching, I also held a part-time job as a consultant for an American distributor of rare Chinese minerals and fossils. A chance trip to attend the 1996 Tucson Mineral and Fossil Show led to my setting up an office for the company in Ohio, and eventually to meeting my PhD advisor, Professor Ken Foland, at The Ohio State University. My dissertation focused on developing $^{40}$Ar/$^{39}$Ar laser microsampling techniques for dating altered continental flood basalts in Dronning Maud Land (Antarctica), and profiling argon distributions in phlogopite crystals from the Adirondack Mountains. After completing my PhD in 2001, I moved to MIT for a post-doc working with Professor Kip Hodges on the argon thermochronology of Western Greenland and the Central Himalaya. I was very excited to return to the Midwest in October 2003 and join Brad Singer’s group as manager of the Rare Gas Geochronology Lab. Brad’s experience with dating young volcanic rocks and my expertise with older complex minerals and thermochronology now allow us to address a broad spectrum of geologic problems.

**NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS 2003-04**

M’bark Baddouh, BS, Ibnou Zohr University, Morocco—Sed/Strat
Richard Becker, BS, University of Maine—Quaternary
Francisco Correa-Mora, (semester 2), BS, University Nacional Autonoma de Mexico—Geophysics
Heidi Crosby, BS, University of Maine—Geochemistry
Kuwanna Dyer, BS, University of Nevada, Las Vegas—Sedimentology
Adam Eisenach, (semester 2) BS, UW-Madison—Paleontology
Amy Garbowicz, BA, Lawrence University—Sedimentology
Christopher Gordon, BS, University of Texas at Austin—Sed/Strat
Sarah Henry, BS, Texas A&M University—Metamorphic Petrology

Preeya Jiruttitijaroen, BS, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand—Sed/Strat
Tina Johnson, BS, University of Michigan; MS, University of Michigan—Paleoceanography
Nathaniel Keller, BA, Lawrence University—Hydrogeology
Melissa Masbruch, BS, University of Utah—Hydrogeology
Timothy Oleson, BS, Tufts—Geochemistry
Erik Olson, BS, University of Massachusetts, Amherst—Seismology
Skylar Primm, BS, University of New Orleans—Structural Geology
Aaron Shultis, BS, UW-Milwaukee—Igneous—Petrology
Bradley Sleeth, BS, Illinois State University; MS, Northern Illinois University—Geomorphology
Caroline Webber, BS, College of William and Mary—Structural Geology